

1 Million Metro Red Line Boardings in 7 Days Boosts Average Daily Rail Ridership

(July 3) From its opening weekend through the first five days of revenue service on the North Hollywood line, the Metro Red Line transported more than one million passengers. That achievement signaled a sharp boost in total Metro Rail ridership that planners believe will continue in the months ahead.

In its first week of revenue service, Metro Red Line average daily ridership rocketed by 85 percent to 120,500 from a daily average of 65,150 in May, according to Ashok Kumar, director, Countywide Planning's Operations Data Analysis.

Ridership this past week also jumped by five percent on the Metro Blue Line to an estimated 63,000 and by 10 percent on the Metro Green Line to an estimated 27,500. During the opening weekend of North Hollywood service, the Metro Red Line recorded 500,000 boardings as crowds celebrated the arrival of subway service in the San Fernando Valley.

The spike in average daily subway ridership brings all Metro Rail daily boardings to a total of 211,000 - 15 percent of all boardings on MTA-operated transit lines. Metro Bus boardings average 1.2 million each day.

Heavier evening ridership

Checks indicate that the Hollywood and North Hollywood portions of the Metro Red Line are drawing heavier ridership in the afternoons and evenings than during traditional rush periods. Kumar attributes that to activity at the entertainment venues located in those areas.

"We're getting good ridership even in the late evenings near close of service," he said.

No ridership figures for Metro Rapid bus service along the Wilshire/Whittier and Ventura Boulevard corridors are available yet. The first week of service, which began with the North Hollywood opening, was free. Monday was the first day of revenue service on the two lines.

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